

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 and ending at line 10, as follows.

--The present invention relates to a toner supply container for supplying toner to ~~into~~ an image forming apparatus of an electrostatic recording type, an electrophotographic recording type or the like, such as a copying machine, a printer, or a facsimile machine ~~or the like~~, and to a process cartridge detachably mountable to the image forming apparatus.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11 and ending at line 19, as follows.

--In an image forming apparatus such as an electrostatic copying machine, printer and the like, powdery toner is used, and is supplied ~~with toner~~ from a toner supply container. The toner supply container generally comprises a cylindrical, rectangular or parallelopiped ~~or the like~~ shape main body made of synthetic resin material, and a toner seal member for sealing an opening of the main body is provided to permit supply of the powdery toner into a developing device.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20 and ending at page 2, line 6, as follows.

--More particularly, in an image forming apparatus using an electrophotographic image forming process, a cartridge integrally containing an electrophotographic photosensitive

member and developing means actable on the electrophotographic photosensitive member ~~and~~ is detachably mountable to the main assembly of an image forming apparatus (process cartridge type). The process cartridge type is advantageous in that maintenance operations can be performed not by a service person but by the user ~~in effect~~, and therefore, operational properties ~~have operation property~~ has been significantly improved. Therefore, the process cartridge type is widely used in the field of image forming apparatus.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 7 and ending at line 15, as follows.

--One ~~A~~ type of process cartridge integrally contains a photosensitive drum, a cleaner, a charger and ~~the like as well as~~ the toner supply container. The developing means provided in the process cartridge integrally comprises a developing member for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum with the toner, and a toner supply container for supplying the toner to the developing member.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 16 and ending at page 3, line 9 as follows:

--As for the toner seal member, there are two types, ~~in~~ In one type ~~of which~~ one sheet of film is used to seal, and a sealing portion of the film is peeled off upon unsealing (easy peel type), and in the other type ~~of which~~ the film is torn. In the peeling type, ~~film, there are the type~~ ~~in which~~ a cover film and a tear tape are integrated, and upon ~~the~~ unsealing, the tear tape is

pulled to tear the cover film ~~by the tear tape~~ (tear tape type), and a type in which one tearable sealing member is used. They are widely used because of their advantages that unsealing strength (resistance) can be decreased and that the width of the opening is controllable. Japanese Laid-open Patent Application Sho 59-13262, Japanese Laid-open Utility Model Application Sho 63-60164, Japanese Laid-open Patent Application Hei 8-328369, and Japanese Laid-open Patent Application Hei 11-72999, for example, discloses ~~show the close~~ methods using a single tearable sealing member. Japanese Laid-open Patent Application Hei 11-102105 proposes a sealing member which is treated by a half cutting process using a laser.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 25 and ending at page 8, line 7, as follows.

--The surface layer 1a is required to have a heat resistive property to permit welding of the toner seal member 1 onto the main body 2 of the toner supply container, and is required to have a sufficient film strength to maintain a sealing performance as a toner seal. In addition, it is also required to have a good tearing property to permit is the tearing for the unsealing. Therefore, the material is preferably biaxial orientation polyester having a thickness of 10-20 $\mu$ m, preferably 12-17 $\mu$ m.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 and ending at line 16, as follows.

--The laser blocking layer 1b is required to have a property of not absorbing carbon dioxide laser. It is also required to have property of preventing ~~the damage to~~ of the surface layer from ~~by the~~ heat irradiation during the laser machining. Similarly to the surface layer, it is required to have an easy tearing property for the unsettling. Therefore, it is preferably made of aluminum foil having a thickness of 5-15 $\mu$ m, preferably, 7-12 $\mu$ m.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 21 and ending at page 10, line 2, as follows.

--The output of the carbon dioxide laser in this embodiment was 8W. Depending on the output (W) of the used laser and the material of the sealant, the sealant layer per se would not be completely melted with a result that a groove is not formed in the tearing portion 1e as shown in Figure 2, and/or, a gap 1e may be formed between the polyester of the tearing guide layer 1c and the sealant layer 1d as shown in Figure 3.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6 and ending at line 22, as follows.

--Figure 4 shows a toner seal member 1 of this embodiment. The toner seal member 1 of this embodiment comprises a sealing portion 1g for ~~sailing~~ sealing a toner discharging opening of the main body 2 of the toner supply container (the region including a welded portion which is welded on the container along the longitudinal direction of the sealing member) and a drawing portion 1h which is extended from the sealing portion 1g and is used to pull the sealing portion

1g upon the sealing. The drawing portion 1h is not fixed, and therefore, is a free end. As shown in Figure 5, a connecting portion 11 between the sealing portion 1g and the drawing portion 1h is inclined by 45° relative to the drawing direction, and an edge portion 1j of a linear tearing portion 1e of the tearing portion guide 1f ends at the connecting portion 11.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 23 and ending at page 11, line 6, as follows.

--Figure 5 is a partial enlarged view of a portion shown in Figure 4. The edge configuration is defined to permit ~~is the~~ tearing, and the inclined portion may be accurate, for example. The two tearing ~~portions~~ portion 1f shown in Figure 4 are disposed such that toner discharging opening 2a of the main assembly 2 of the toner supply container is fully open as shown in Figure 6 upon the unsealing operation. The connecting portion 11 is provided between a longitudinal end edge 1k of the sealing portion 1g and a side ~~aside~~ edge 1m of the drawing portion 1h.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 15 and ending at line 20, as follows.

--~~Any~~ The material of may be used for the sealing jig ~~may be any in so long as~~ the heat conduction is high, the process property is satisfactory, and the durability is sufficiently high. More particularly, brass, stainless steel or the like is preferable. In this embodiment, the material was brass.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 17 and ending at page 15, line 4, as follows.

--By this arrangement, even if ~~such~~ a force D is produced, the inclined rectilinear configuration is effective to permit the force D to be received at a line, so that bonding strength is sufficient against the force D in the peeling direction. Accordingly, ~~the~~ unintended peeling of the seal portion ~~or the like~~ can be avoided when the toner seal member 1 is torn, thus assuring proper unsealing. In this embodiment, even if positional deviation, particularly in the longitudinal direction (the direction C or the opposite direction in Figure 10) occurs in the assembling, the force D can be stably received at a line, and therefore, the unsealing property is not influenced, by which the latitude in the assembling is improved.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 14 and ending at page 16, line 12 as follows:

--As shown in Figure 12, the inclined linear configuration at the end of the extended seal portion 3b may be arcuate, more particularly, concave toward the force D in the peeling direction to approximate the raising of the edge portion 1j so that force can be received at the arcuation, so that the length of the force receiving portion is increased, and therefore, the force is distributed more widely. This further improves the resistance against the peeling force. In this embodiment, the arcuate configuration is given a radius of 20mm at the end portion. This is not limiting, and may be changed ~~properly~~ by one skilled in the art as long as the above-described advantageous effects are provided. The concavity may have a configuration other than an

arcuation, if it is generally concave toward the peeling force. Here, the concavity should be shallow in either case, that is, irrespective of whether the configuration is arcuate ~~or not~~. If the concavity is deep, the intermediate portion of the seal portion 3 cannot properly withstand the peeling force at the end portions of the curve providing the concave configuration. On the contrary, the linear configuration may be convex if the convexity is very small, that is, very close to a rectilinear configuration, as long as the above-described advantageous effects can be provided.--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 25 and ending at page 18, line 4, as follows.

--This embodiment is similar to the foregoing embodiment except that for the portion of the heat seal pattern which crosses with the tearing portion 1f of the toner seal member 1 has a concave configuration with respect to the unsealing direction C of the toner seal member 1.

Figure 13 shows the sealing member according to this embodiment. ~~This~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 20 and ending at page 20, line 5, as follows.

--In addition, even if the tearing partly fails, more particularly, if the tearing occurs at inside of or outside of the intended tearing portion 1f, the concave configuration 3d of the seal portion is effective to guide the tearing line to the intended or regular line 1f. In other words, even if the tearing line is deviated upon the unsealing of the toner seal member, the rearing line is

guided by the concave configuration 3d of the seal portion to the regular line 1f. The concave configuration 3d may differ ~~be any~~ if the above-described advantageous effects are provided. In this embodiment, it is arcuate, but it may also ~~be~~ V-shaped or trapezoidal configuration.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 22 and ending at page 22, line 4, as follows.

--Similarly to Embodiment 1, there is provided a rectilinear configuration 3c at the end portion of the extended seal portion 3b, and therefore, even though the tearing start portion 4c ~~portion~~ is raised, and the force is produced in the peeling direction, ~~the~~ proper tearing can be assured. Thus, the cover film 4 can be assuredly torn. Furthermore, similarly to Embodiment 1, the rectilinear configuration 3c may be replaced with curve configuration such as an arcuation, and the similar advantageous effects can be provided.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 5 and ending at line 10, as follows.

--As regards the assembling and manufacturing of the toner supply container, what is required is to weld the toner seal member on the main body 2 of the toner supply container. Therefore, the unsealing property stability can be accomplished with a very simple assembling.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 4 and ending at line 20, as follows.



--Referring to Figure 20, the process cartridge B will be described. The process cartridge B comprises a toner frame 111 constituting the toner supply container for accommodating the toner, and a developing device frame 112 supporting the developing means 109 including a developing roller 109c. The toner frame 111 includes a toner discharging opening 111i ~~111i~~, through which the toner is supplied into the developing device frame 112. The process cartridge B further comprises ~~comprising~~ a cleaning frame 113 supporting the photosensitive drum 107, a cleaning means 110 including a cleaning blade 110a, and a charging roller 108. The cleaning frame 113 is coupled with the toner frame 111 and with the developing device frame 112. The process cartridge B can be detachably mountable to the main assembly 114 of the image forming apparatus by the user.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 3 and ending at line 27, as follows.

--The toner frame 111 (toner accommodating portion) of such a process cartridge B has a toner seal member 1 which is any one of the above-described toner seal member to seal the toner discharging opening 111i ~~111i~~, before the start of use of the process cartridge B. The toner frame 111 corresponds to the main body 2 of the toner supply container shown in Figure 6, and the toner discharging opening 111i ~~111i~~ corresponds to the toner discharging opening 2a. Therefore, the detailed description of sealing structure is omitted for simplicity. As shown in figure 20, before the start of use of the process cartridge B, the toner seal member 1 seals the toner discharging opening 111i ~~111i~~ of the toner discharging to seal the toner frame 111 to

prevent leakage of the toner from inside. The toner seal member 1 is folded back from the sealing portion 1g, and the pulling portion 1h is overlaid on sealing portion 1g, and the free end thereof is extended to outside of the process cartridge B. Upon the start of use of the process cartridge B, the toner seal member 1 sealing the toner discharging opening 111i ~~111i~~ is removed by pulling the pulling portion 1h. Then, the process cartridge B now having been unsealed is loaded into the laser beam printer A to permit developing operation.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 4 ending at line 18, as follows.

--The sealing member of the comparison example is the same as the sealing member according to Embodiment 1 with the exception that the ~~be~~ inclined rectilinear configuration portion 3c is not provided in the extended seal portion 3b of the seal portion 3. Figure 21 shows the structure of the sealing member of the comparison example. When the toner seal member 1 is removed, the edge portion 1j which is the tearing start portion is raised similarly to Embodiment 1, and the force D is applied to the extended seal portion 3b in the peeling direction. The force is concentrated on the inner apex 3e at the edge of the extended portion 3b. Therefore, the force is not received at a line, and therefore, the bonding strength is not enough.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 14 and ending at line 22, as follows.

--In the foregoing, the electrophotographic image forming apparatus is an apparatus for forming an image on a recording material through an electrophotographic image formation

process. Examples of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses[[,]] include an electrophotographic copying machine, an electrophotographic printer (laser beam printer, LED printer or the like), a facsimile machine, and a word processor ~~and the like.--~~